

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 AF-06 SAM-01 OPIC-03

CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 OMB-01 A-01 OPR-02 SY-05 OC-05

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P R 301354Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4775

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

USIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 6394

USIA FOR IEU, MCLAUGHLIN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PO, MILI

SUBJECT: POLITICAL-MILITARY DEVELOPMENTS

REFS (A) LISBON 6364 DTG 291315Z OCT 75

(B) OPORTO 309 DTG 291700Z OCT 75

SUMMARY: LEFTIST MILITARY GROUPS SUFFERED SEVERAL REVERSES, AS
RADICAL SOLDIERS ORGANIZATION (SUV) AND DISSIDENT ARTILLERY
REGIMENT (RASP) STAGED POORLY-ATTENDED DEMONSTRATIONS IN ENTRON-
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CAMENTO AND OPORTO. OPORTO/LEFTISTS NOW ADMIT THEY ERRED IN

YIELDING OCCUPIED ARTILLERY REGIMENT WITHOUT FIRST RADICALIZING OTHER NORTHERN UNITS. COPCON HAS PURGED OFFICER WHO ALLEGED NEGLIGENCE BY LEFTIST COPCON UNIT. MOVE REFLECTS POWER STRUGGLE WITHIN COPCON. STRUGGLE BETWEEN WORKER FACTIONS PREVENTED PUBLICATION OF COMMUNIST-LINING "O SEculo" OCT 30. END SUMMARY.

1. SUV DEMONSTRATION: "SOLDIERS UNITED WILL WIN" (SUV) STAGED UNIMPRESSIVE DEMONSTRATION IN CENTRAL MILITARY REGION TOWN OF ENTRONCAMENTO, 60 MILES NORTH OF LISBON, OCT 29. SUV SECRETARIAT ANNOUNCED THAT IT WAS NOW REPRESENTED IN ALL MILITARY UNITS IN CENTRAL REGION, AND CONFINED DEMANDS LARGELY TO MILITARY ISSUES SUCH AS FREE TRANSPORTATION AND END TO "REACTIONARY DISCIPLINE".

2. RASP DEMONSTRATION: DEMONSTRATION ORGANIZED BY ACTION COM-

MITTEE OF OPORTO ARTILLERY REGIMENT (RASP) ON OCT 29 DREW LESS THAN A THOUSAND PARTICIPANTS, INCLUDING NO MORE THAN 100 MILITARY, FOR MARCH PAST NORTTE

MILITARY REGION HEADQUARTERS (RMN). DEMONSTRATORS CALLED FOR REVOLUTIONARY DISCIPLINE AND DISPARAGED RMN COMMANDER VELOSO. MEMBER OF RASP ACTION COMMITTEE TOLD THE DISAPPOINTING TURNOUT THAT HIS GROUP HAD MADE SERIOUS ERRORS IN NOT DIRECTING SUFFICIENT ATTENTION TO OTHER UNITS IN THE RMN AND IN LEAVING RASP IN SUCH A DISORGANIEED MANNER. MARCH ENDED WITHOUT INCIDENT. RMN COMMANDER VELOSO SPENT OCT 29 VISITING NEWLY ARRIVED TROOPS FROM THE DISPUTED OPORTO AUTO TRAINING CENTER (CICAP) AT THEIR NEW LOCATION IN POVOA DE VARZIM, 25 MILES NORTH OF OPORTO.

3. COPCON PURGES DISSIDENT OFFICER: IN COMMUNIQUE RELEASED OCT 30, COPCON IDENTIFIED MAJOR VARGAS CARDOSO AS COPCON OFFICER WHO, IN INTERVIEW PRINTED OCT 29 IN MODERATE "JORNAL NOVO", ALLEGED THAT COPCON COULD HAVE PREVENTED SACKING OF SPANISH CHANCERY AND CONSULATE. COMMUNIQUE ANNOUNCED THAT VARGAS CARDOSO HAD BEEN RELIEVED OF DUTIES AND WOULD BE TRANSFERRED OUT OF COPCON. IT REAFFIRMED THAT COMMANDER AND VICE COMMANDER OF UNIT RESPONSIBLE FOR PROTECTION OF EMBASSY, LEFT-LEANING LISBON LIGHT ARTILLERY REGIMENT (RALIS), RECEIVED ORDERS TO DO SO ONLY AFTER INCIDENTS HAD ALREADY TAKEN PLACE.
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4. MILITARY DEVELOPMENTS: OTHER POLITICAL-MILITARY DEVELOPMENTS INCLUDED:

-- FIFTH DIVISION: ARMY OFFICERS FORMERLY ASSIGNED TO FIFTH DIVISION OF ARMED FORCES GENERAL STAFF (J-5 AGITPROP) WERE ORDERED TO REPORT TO ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF FOR REASSIGNMENT.

-- AIR FORCE RESPONDS: AIR FORCE CHIEF OF STAFF GEN. MORAIS DA SILVA ON OCT 29 DENIED CHARGES (REF A) THAT AIR FORCE WAS PREPARING COUP, BUT ACKNOWLEDGED THAT MODIFICATION TO AIRCRAFT AND TRAINING EXERCISES WERE BEING CARRIED OUT IN ORDER TO UP-GRADE AIR FORCES'S COMBAT-READINESS. HE RE-EMPHASIZED HIS LOYALTY TO AZEVEET ROVERNMENT AND STRESSED READINESS OF AIR FORCE TO OPPOSE COUP FROM RIGHT OR LEFT.

-- GONCALVES POSTING CONTESTED: OFFICERS OF THE INSTITUTE OF HIGHER MILITARY STUDIES ON OCT 29 APPROVED A MOTION PROTESTING THE NOMINATION OF FORMER PRIME MINISTER VASCO GONCALVES AS HEAD OF THAT INSTITUTION.

5. POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS: IN OTHER POLITICAL EVENTS:

-- INTERNAL CONFLICT AT "O SEculo": A STRUGGLE BETWEEN SOCIALIST AND COMMUNIST-DOMINATED FACTIONS AT COMMUNIST-LINING "O SEculo" PREVENTED PUBLICATION OF THAT LISBON MORNING DAILY TODAY (SEPTTEL).

-- NORTHERN DIRECTORATE OF COMMUNIST PARTY (DORN) REACTED TO TWO BOMBS IN OPORTO (REF B) BY ATTRIBUTING MORAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR SUCH EVENTS TO SOCIALIST LEADER MARIO SOARES BECAUSE OF HIS INCENDIARY REMARKS OF OCT 28 (REF A). DORN COMMUNIQUE ALSO BLAMED POPULAR DEMOCRATS "LED WITH NAZI-LIKE ARROGANCE" BY SEC GEN SA CARNEIRO FOR GROWTH IN TERRORIST INCIDENTS AND PROVOCATIVE CAMPAIGNS AGAINST COMMUNIST PARTY.

-- SOUTHERNMOST BORDER CROSSING WITH SPAIN BETWEEN VILA REAL DE SANTO ANTONIO AND AYAMONTE WAS REOPENED OCT 29 AFTER BEING CLOSED FOR A MONTH BY SPANISH AUTHORITIES.

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6. COMMENT: FOR THE MOMENT AT LEAST, MILITARY LEFTISTS HAVE LOST THEIR EARLIER MOMENTUM. SUV EFFORT TO DEMONSTRATE IN RAILROAD-CROSSING TOWN OF ENTRONCAMENTO WAS HAMPERED BY ABSENCE OF LARGE NUMBERS OF CIVILIAN ACTIVISTS WHO CAN BE COUNTED UPON IN LISBON. IN OPORTO, RASP ACTIVISTS NOW ADMIT THAT THEY GAVE UP TOO MUCH WHEN THEY CONCEDED THEIR PRINCIPAL ASSET -- OCCUPIED RASP HEADQUARTERS. THEY ALSO ERRED WHEN THEY AGREED TO THE TRANSFER OF THE CICAP UNIT. PIRES VELOSO IS CAPITALIZING ON THESE "ERRORS" TO MOVE CICAP RADICALS SAFELY OUT OF OPORTO, WHILE POSTPONING AIRING OF OUTSTANDING ISSUES. NONETHELESS, INQUIRY INTO EVENTS AT RASP AND THE INSTALLATION OF A NEW UNIT IN FORMER CICAP SITE REMAIN OBSTACLES TO VELOSO'S EFFORTS TO REASSERT CONTROL.

7. VARGAS CARDOSO'S INTERVIEW IN JORNAL NOVO AND HIS SUBSEQUENT
PURGING REFLECT IN-FIGHTING CURRENTLY UNDER WAY IN COPCON
HEADQUARTERS.
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